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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 5, 2007

The Honorable Glenn A. Fine
Inspector General
The Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Inspector General Fine:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, notifying the Committee of the expansion of your investigation into issues related to the dismissals of several U.S. Attorneys. This letter followed up on your earlier letter of March 26 notifying the Committee of the joint investigation into the matter by your office and the Office of Professional Responsibility.

In your most recent letter, you notified us that you have expanded your investigation to "include allegations regarding improper political or other considerations in hiring decisions within the Department of Justice." On May 23, Monica Goodling admitted during her testimony before the House Judiciary Committee that she "crossed the line" with respect to such considerations.

She also testified about a meeting she had with Attorney General Gonzales that made her "uncomfortable" in the days before she resigned from the Department of Justice. She testified that Mr. Gonzales recounted to her his recollection of the process leading up to and including the firing and replacement of several U.S. Attorneys. Mr. Gonzales had previously testified to this Committee that he was being careful not to speak to others involved in the replacement of U.S. Attorneys about those matters because he thought that inappropriate.

Ms. Goodling's testimony prompted Congressman Davis to ask whether the Attorney General was engaged in inappropriately communicating with someone he knew was a participant in and witness to the matters under investigation in order to shape her testimony. Although you mentioned the expansion of your inquiry with respect to the consideration in hiring decisions of improper political considerations, you did not mention this incident in your recent letter. Does the expansion of your inquiry include this matter?

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman


ARLEN SPECTER
Ranking Member